HEALTH
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Swanscombe Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year, 1955

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.PH.,
Medical Officer of Health

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1955, upon the public health circumstances of the Urban District of Swanscombe.

Population. There was a increase of 20 in the Registrar General's estimate for the year, from 8,770 in 1954, to 8,790 for the present year.

Birth Rate. The number of births during the year was 126, a decrease of 4 over the previous year, giving a rate for the district of 14.3. The rate for England and Wales is 15.0.

The still-birth figure is low, at 2 in number, providing a rate of 14.5 which compares favourably with that of the country as a whole.

General Death Rate. Swanscombe's death rate for 1955 was 9.1 per thousand of the population ; the number of deaths being 80. The rate for England and Wales is 11.7.

Natural increase of the Population. The total births in 1955 exceeded the total deaths by 46. The figures for 1954 and 1953 were 51 and 59 respectively, the present figures are therefore relatively good.

Infant Mortality. The rate for deaths of infants under one year is low at 15.8., the rate for the whole country being 24.9. The actual number of infants who died during the year was 3. This figure is good, and shows an improvement over that for 1954 which was 5.

Provision of Health Services in the Area. Following my usual custom, I have included a summary of the local health services available. These services are administered by the Kent County Council as the local health authority, and I have also included an up-to-date time-table in the form of an Appendix to the report.

Infectious Disease. The statements showing the incidence of notifiable disease follows the form of previous years. The figures call for no special comment. Scarlet fever, and measles were rather more prevalent than in previous years, but no significance is attached to such an increase.

Deaths from tuberculosis continue to remain at their low level, the year's rate for Swanscombe being 2, which also compares favourably with that of England and Wales.

In conclusion, I have again to record my appreciation of the help and encouragement afforded me by the Council during the year.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor L. T. Owens (Chairman)
,, W. Austen (Vice-Chairman)
,, E. W. Blackwell
,, T. Bodle
,, T. G. Burgess
,, C. W. Butcher
,, J. Childs
,, P. Connolly
,, W. L. Davidson
,, H. E. Durrant
,, G. C. Hammond
,, J. T. Mitchell
,, V. F. Jenkins
,, W. O. Keary
,, A. E. Scutts
,, A. F. Siggers
,, Mrs. E. E. Thurlow
,, Mrs. M. J. Wright

Clerk:
Mr. F. G. Peters.

Solicitors:
Messrs. Baily & Goff.

Medical Officer of Health:
M. F. McDonnell, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
L. E. Croucher, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
(who is also Surveyor)

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:
F. W. Sharpe (part time).

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	2,142
Population (Census 1951)	8,294
Present estimated population	8,790
Estimated population, 1954	8,770
,, ,, 1953	8,614
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1954)	2,582
Number of new houses erected year ended 31st December, 1954—Permanent	96
Rateable value 31st December, 1955	£65,627
,, ,, ,, ,, 1954	£63,483
,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	£61,618
Sum represented by penny rate 1955	£240
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1954	£255
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	£266
Number of Births 1955	126
,, ,, ,, 1954	130
,, ,, ,, 1953	142

	Swanscombe.		England and Wales.
	Live.	Still.	Live.
Birth rate per 1,000 population 1955	14.3	0.22	15.0
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1954	14.5	0.22	15.2
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	16.4	0.34	15.3

Number of illegitimate births 1955	8
,, ,, ,, ,, 1954	6
,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	9
Number of deaths 1955	80
,, ,, ,, 1954	79
,, ,, ,, 1953	83

	Swanscombe.	England and Wales.
Death rate per 1,000 population 1955	9.1	11.7
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1954	9.0	11.3
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1953	9.6	11.4

	Total	M.	F.
LIVE legitimate	118	60	58
illegitimate	8	5	3
STILLBIRTHS—			
Legitimate	2	2	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
DEATHS	80	46	34

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.3
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	14.5
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	9.1

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	15.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	19
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	— —
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	— —
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	— —

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT, 1955

Causes of Death	Male	Female
All causes	46	34
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
Cancer, Stomach	2	1
Cancer, Lung, Bronchus	5	—
Cancer, Breast	—	2
Cancer, Uterus	—	—
Lymphatic Cancers	6	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	6	3
Coronary Disease, Angina	12	5
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	—
Other Heart Disease	3	7
Other Circulatory Disease	3	4
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	3	1
Bronchitis	1	—
Other diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostrate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	—	4
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All Other Accidents	1	1
Suicide	—	—

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Services available under The National Health Service Act, 1948 and the National Assistance Act, 1948.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

From the 6th July, 1948, the Kent County Council have been the responsible authority for providing these services and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer and his staff for the following information regarding facilities available and hours of attendance at the Clinics :—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND POST NATAL CLINICS

Advice and ante-natal care is given and Post-natal examinations are carried out.
New Parish Hall, Swanscombe—2nd and 4th Monday, 2.0 p.m.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

These centres are available for giving advice as to the care of infants and children under the age of five years. Infant foods, National Dried Milk and Ministry of Food Vitamin Products are issued. A Medical Officer and a Health Visitor are in attendance at each centre.

SWANSCOMBE U.

Scouts Hall, Church Road, Swanscombe.	Thursday, 2 p.m.
Brotherhood Hall, Greenhithe.	Tuesday, 2 p.m.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation and vaccination are available at the Council Offices, Northfleet, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10.0 to 11.0 a.m., and at all Child Welfare Centres.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

Domestic help is provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mental defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. The service provided is limited to the performance of essential domestic help.

This is one of the services for which a charge has to be made. When domestic help is provided, the head of the family concerned is asked to complete an assessment form giving details of income and the charges to be met from that income and a preliminary estimate of the assessment that will need to be paid can, if desired, be given by the district officer.

FAMILY HELP SERVICE.

This service is restricted to families of two or more children where application has been made to the Children's Committee for the children to be taken into care during the temporary absence of the mother and the service is limited to an initial period of not more than three months.

NIGHT ATTENDANT SERVICE.

Night attendant service is now available for old people but is limited to cases where the help required cannot be provided by voluntary agencies. The arrangements include evening service, preparation for sleep, provision of meals, attention to fires and night service. Application for this service should generally be made through the family doctor. Further information is obtainable from the Domestic Help Organiser at Elm House, New Road Avenue, Chatham.

HEALTH VISITORS.

These officers are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measure necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Health Visitors also undertake duties in connection with the School Health Service.

SWANSCOMBE

Miss F. E. Arnold, S.R.N., S.C.N., K.C.C. Clinic, 5 Station Road, Northfleet.

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The County Council provides a service free of charge for the attendance on persons whose doctors require them to be nursed in their own homes. The nurse's attendance is normally arranged by the doctor, but the name and address of the appropriate nurse for any particular district is obtainable from the undermentioned District Office of the County Council :—

Arthur Street, Gravesend.
(Tel. Gravesend 166).

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The County Council arranges for the free attendance of midwives upon patients who are to be confined at home. The name and address of the appropriate midwife for any particular district is usually known to the patient's doctor, but can be obtained from the undermentioned District Office of the County Council :—

Arthur Street, Gravesend.
(Tel. Gravesend 166).

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council is responsible for the provision of a comprehensive ambulance service throughout the County. Other than in cases of accident and emergency, no ambulance will be provided except on the recommendation of a doctor, midwife, or hospital, and in the case of sitting-case cars a special form has to be completed and signed by a doctor.

In cases of accident or emergency, if an ambulance is required, telephone '999' or (as indicated in the telephone directory or public telephone box), and ask the operator for "Ambulance."

PROVISION OF NURSING REQUISITES.

Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade for the continuance of the Medical Loan Depots, on behalf of the County Council. The full range of nursing requisites are available at these depots and details of the addresses and the times the depots are open for distribution are available in the district offices. These arrangements are in addition to the loan cupboards kept by District Nurses. The depots deal with all applications for the loan of nursing requisites.

Northfleet: (St. John) 69 Dover Road. Monday to Friday. 7.30 p.m.—9 p.m. (Mr. C. J. Sims. Telephone: Gravesend 4603).

MENTAL WELFARE.

Dr. L. M. Allen, Senior Assistant County Medical Officer, is Medical Officer for Mental Welfare. Dr. Allen's address is County Hall, Maidstone (Telephone: Maidstone 4321).

An Occupation Centre for mentally defective children is held at the Anglo-Saxon Hall, Berkley Road, Gravesend, from Monday to Friday each week, 10.0 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., and children from the Swanscombe area may attend this Centre if suitable.

BLIND PERSONS.

Information on matters affecting the blind can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone, (Telephone: Maidstone 4321. ext. 588) and the Secretary of the Kent County Association for the Blind, 15 Ashford Road, Maidstone (Telephone: Maidstone 3717).

Financial assistance is provided by the National Assistance Board, at the address below:—

"Rosedene," 61 Shepherds Lane, Dartford.

A Local Officer is now available at "Ravenscourt," Pelham Road, Gravesend. The hours of attendance are 2-4 p.m. daily and 9 a.m.—12 noon on Saturdays.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The following clinics are available for children attending schools in Swanscombe :-

Minor Ailments.	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Medical Officer attends every Saturday morning, 9.30 a.m.—12 noon.	
Dental.	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet. Dental Surgeon attends every Monday and Tuesday, alternate Wednesdays and Saturdays. Except in emergencies, children are treated by appointment only.	
Ophthalmic.	Gravesend and North Kent Hospital	Attendance at these clinics is by appointment only. Application should be made to the Principal Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.
Speech Therapy	107 Rochester Road, Denton, Gravesend.	
Child Guidance.	Woodside Road, Bexley Heath.	

DISTRICT OFFICERS.

These officers are responsible for :—

(a) Duties as Authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts.

b) Acting as representatives of the County Health Department in dealing with inquiries made by the public and arranging for County Health Services to be made available in cases of difficulty.

(c) Carrying out the duties of the County Council under the National Assistance Act in (i) arranging admissions for old, handicapped and homeless people to residential establishments other than in cases of sickness, and (ii) the care of movable property of patients who are admitted to hospital or to residential establishments provided by the County Council, where it appears that there is a danger of loss or damage to the property.

(d) Distribution of Welfare Foods.

District Officer: Mr. G. T. Jeffery, Arthur Street, Gravesend. Telephone Gravesend 166.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The hospital and specialist services, including institutions for the chronic sick, mental homes, maternity homes, convalescent homes, chest clinics and outpatients departments are administered by the Regional Hospital Boards set up by the Minister of Health, the South-East Metropolitan Regional Board is responsible for all hospitals in Kent, but for day-to-day administration Hospital Management Committees have been set up to deal with groups of hospitals. Generally speaking admission to hospital is a matter for the doctor in charge of the patient and he will make arrangements direct with the hospital authorities, calling upon the County Ambulance Service for the removal of the patient to hospital where this is considered necessary.

NURSERY SCHOOL.

The Northfleet Nursery School provides accommodation for the daily care of children between the ages of 3 and 5 years. Priority is given to the children of mothers who must go to work in order to supplement insufficient wages ; widows, children living in unhealthy, cramped home conditions ; or where a doctor recommends admittance because of unsuitable home life. The staff is trained to deal with difficult children who need more psychological understanding than that provided at home.

Hours of attendance at the Nursery Schools are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with normal school holiday periods. Meals are provided for the sum of 2/6d. per week. In addition to the ordinary diet, Ministry of Health Cod Liver Oil Compound, Orange Juice and two-thirds of a pint of milk may be given.

At present 40 children are accommodated at the Nursery—most of them being from the Northfleet area—Application for admission should be made to the Superintendent (Mrs. Dowker), at the Northfleet Nursery School, London Road, Northfleet.

TREATMENT OF ANTHRAX, BOTULISM, SNAKE-BITE AND MUSHROOM POISONING.

List of the nearest centres which keep emergency supplies of sera for the treatment of anthrax, botulism, snake-bite and mushroom (amanita phalloides) poisoning. A 24-hour service is maintained at each centre.

Region 6 : N. E. Metropolitan

North Middlesex Hospital, N.17. Telephone : Tottenham 3071.
Day—Chief Pathologist.
Night—Resident Pathologist.

Region 7 : S.E. Metropolitan

South East Sup-Depot, Weavering House,
Ashford Road, Maidstone, Kent.

Region 8 : S. W. Metropolitan

South London Blood Supply Depot, Telephone : Vigilant 8221.
Stanley Road, Sutton, Surrey.

The Dispensary, Royal South Hants and
Southampton Hospital. Telephone : Southampton 76211.
(Snake Anti-Serum only).

Day Service	Telephone :	Maidstone 4468.
		Maidstone 3604.
Night Service		Maidstone 4660.
		Maidstone 3718.

CONVALESCENT TREATMENT.

Three forms of convalescent treatment are available. These are for :—

(1) Patients who have been ill and treated at home, but who still require nursing care and attention.

(2) Patients who have been ill and treated at home, and who in the opinion of their doctor require a change of air.

(3) Patients who have been hospital cases.

Patients in category (1) above, the doctor in charge should write to the Regional Board, Portland Place, London, asking for the ' Convalescent Home ' form.

In category (2) above, the doctor in charge should send a certificate to Dr. Elliott, County Hall, Maidstone, who will arrange convalescence at Homes situated in Herne Bay, Whitstable, etc.

Patients in category (3) will have convalescence arranged by the Lady Almoner of the hospital.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION.

Medway Towns Branch of the Family Planning Association announced that their Clinic was opened on Thursday, September 23rd, at All Saint's Hospital, Chatham (Ante-Natal Clinic). Thursday evenings—7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

HOME SAFETY.

In recent months, the gravity of the position in regard to accidents in the home has received considerable attention.

Many eminent people have underlined the seriousness of the position in regard to the taking up of bed-space in hospitals and the immense financial loss to the Country caused by these accidents. This is no small problem when it is remembered that since 1949 some 31,674 fatal accidents have occurred.

It is generally agreed that while suitable legislation can do something to prevent home accidents, in the last resort it rests with the public to take the necessary precautions, and therefore education is of primary importance.

PREVALANCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Application for the admission of infectious diseases to hospital should be made to the Medical Superintendent of the River Hospital. In the case of Small Pox admission to hospital is arranged by the Consultants who diagnose the disease or by the Medical Officer of Health on his behalf. Telephone : Dartford 3231.

Special arrangements have been made for cases occurring amongst the Cadets in the Worcester Training Ship moored off Greenhithe. These are removed by launch to the Port of London Authority Hospital, Gravesend, Telephone Gravesend 257.

Scarlet Fever :

Cases notified	24
Cases removed to hospital ...	1
% of cases removed	4.1%

Whooping Cough :

Cases notified	8
Cases removed to hospital ...	0
% of cases removed	0

Erysipelas :

Cases notified	0
Cases removed to Hospital ...	0
% of cases removed	0

Dysentery :

Cases notified	1
Cases removed to Hospital ...	0
% of cases removed	0

Parathyphoid Fever :

Cases notified	0

Puerperal Pyrexia :

Cases notified	1
Cases removed to hospital ...	1
% of cases removed	100%

Measles :

Cases notified ...	271
Cases removed to hospital	0
% of cases removed ...	0

Pneumonia :

Cases notified ...	10
Cases removed to hospital	0
% of cases removed ...	0

Diphtheria :

Cases notified ...	0

Poliomyelitis :

Cases notified ...	1
Cases removed to hospital	1
% of cases removed	100%

Enteric or Typhoid Fever :

Cases notified ...	0

Acute Encephalitis :

Cases notified ...	1
Cases removed to hospital	1
% of cases removed	100%

Tuberculosis.

The following statement relates to the number of cases appearing on the Council's Register at 31st December, 1954 :—

	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M	F.	Total	
(a) No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year	83	70	153	16	13	29	175
(b) No. of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year	84	71	155	16	13	29	184
(c) No. of cases notified during the year	4	1	5	—	—	—	5
(d) No. of deaths during the year	1	—	1	—	—	—	1

The following are the ages and occupations of those persons notified during the year :—

Age M.	Age F.	Occupation.	Age M.	Age F.	Occupation.
42		Paper Maker		8	School
14		School	65		Labourer
20		Apprentice Motor Mechanic			

T.B. DISPENSARIES.

Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend	Wednesdays, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.
West Hill Hospital, Dartford,	Daily. 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

There was no need for action under these regulations.

Public Health Act 1925 Section 62.
Public Health Act 1936 Section 172.

There was no occasion for action under these Sections.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX, 1955.

The following is a return of (A) the number of children resident in the Urban District of Swanscombe, who were immunised against diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1955 :—

(A) **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Year of Birth	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Total
Primary Inoculations	9	88	18	5	4	9	7	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	145
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	1	12	41	29	1	17	2	1	16	2	—	—	122

(B) **Vaccination.**

Year of Birth	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Before 1941	Total
Primary Vaccination	57	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	92
Re-Vaccination	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	8	11

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA, 1955.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since January, 1941).

Year of Birth	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1951-1955	—	2	19	21	29	115	102	82	102	104	102	88	104	100	9	979
1950 or earlier	76	60	49	69	42	10	21	15	53	6	—	—	—	—	—	401

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases						
Notified	Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	At Home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Venereal Diseases.

County Hospital, Dartford.	Mondays	4-6 p.m. (Males) 11-1 p.m. (Females)
22, Cobham Street, Gravesend.	Tuesdays	9.0-12 noon (Males) 12 noon-2 p.m. Females)
	Saturdays	9 a.m. (Males) 9.30 a.m. (Females)

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending Dartford and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from Swanscombe Urban District :—

New Patients.	Total.
Syphilis	2
Gonorrhoea	1
Non-Venereal.....	8
No. of attendances of Swanscombe patients	55

There were no defaulters from Swanscombe before completion of treatment during 1955.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

Registration District:

Darent Valley
Comprising Swanscombe U.D.C.
and Dartford R.D.

Registrar:

Mrs. J. Maltby.

Head Office:

The Register Office,
West Hill,
Dartford. Telephone No. 3881.

Monday	9 a.m.—12 noon	
Tuesday	9 a.m.—12 noon	
Wednesday	9 a.m.—12 noon	2 p.m.—4.30 p.m.
Thursday	2 p.m.—5 p.m.	
Friday	2 p.m.—5 p.m.	

Registration Station:

Primitive Methodist Schoolroom,
Church Road.
Swanscombe. Tuesday 11 a.m.—12 noon

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Reports received on samples taken from various sources on the Metropolitan Water Board Supply to the area.

Date of Samples 1955.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar at 37°C	22°C	Remarks.
4.1.55	4	10	Good water.
1.2.55	63	35	Good Water.
5.4.55	0	0	Good Water.
3.5.55	0	3	Good Water.
8.6.55	0	0	Good Water.
8.8.55	0	7	Good Water.
6.9.55	41	1	From roof storage.
11.10.55	0	0	Good Water.
29.11.55	0	0	Good Water.

Reports received on samples taken from various wells and mains supplying the factories situated in the district.

Date of Samples 1955.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar at 37°C	22°C	Remarks
1.3.55	0	0	Good Water.
13.6.55	1	1	Good water.
8.11.55	1	0	Good water.

SWIMMING POOL.

Reports received on samples taken from the Swimming Pool.

Date of Sample.		No or organisms per c.c. capable of growth on agar 37°C	22°C	Remarks. Probable No. of B.Coli (Presumptive) per 100 M.L.	Propable No. of Faecal B. Coli per 100 M.L.
13.6.55	Deepend	10	34	Absent	
	Shallowend	11	18	1	Absent
7.7.55	Deepend	11	248	8	Absent
	Shallowend	2	7	Absent	
20.7.55	Deepend	528	2,560	180	Absent
	Shallowend	41	4,024	3	Absent
3.8.55	Deepend	32	317	Absent	
	Shallowend	0	3	Absent	
24.8.55	Deepend	7	37	Absent	
	Shallowend	640	2,880	Absent	

Attendances 1954 :	Adults 1,920. Spectators	634
	Children paid for admission	9,042
	Children from schools	3,538
	Beaver Swimming Club	1,207
	Season Ticket Holders	591
Attendances 1955 :	Adults 4,355. Spectators	1,622
	Children paid for admission	17,737
	Children from schools	4,557
	Beaver Swimming Club	1,523
	Season Ticket holders	942

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection.

During the period of report approximately 7,086 cubic yards were collected and disposed of.

Although certain difficulties were experienced this service was reasonably maintained.

One S.D. Freighter (Registered 1950) of 6 cubic yards capacity is used for this work.

Disposal.

Controlled tipping is carried out in a shallow disused gravel pit.

SEWAGE.

A consultant was requested to inspect and advise on the works in general, and a report has since been received, suggesting reconstruction of Works.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Analysis of matter collected in Armospheric Deposit Gauge situated on roof of Swimming Pool, London Road, Greenhithe.

Date	Rainfall Ins.	Total Water Insoluble Matter.	Total Water Soluble Matter.	Tons per square Mile.
Jan. 1955	1.92	0.8340 G	0.9840 G	60.63
Feb. 1955	1.29	0.9028 G	1.0000 G	63.46
Mar. 1955	0.61	0.6795 G	0.7050 G	46.17
April 1955	0.35	0.5322 G	0.4710 G	33.46
May 1955	3.04	0.7790 G	1.0000 G	59.33
June 1955	1.39	0.9625 G	0.8500 G	60.45
July 1955	0.12	0.8108 G	0.6460 G	48.58
Aug. 1955	0.13	1.5200 G	0.7790 G	76.67
Sept. 1955	1.99	0.7734 G	0.7520 G	50.87
Oct. 1955	3.01	0.8858 G	1.1680 G	68.49
Nov. 1955	0.33	0.5212 G	0.5730 G	36.49
Dec. 1955	1.34	0.6020 G	0.6520 G	41.82

MILK SUPPLY.

Sterilized Milk.

Fourty-four samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, all samples satisfied the turbidity test.

Pasteurised Milk.

Twenty-two samples taken from the distributors in the district, satisfied the test.

Samples of School milk as supplied by W. E. Southwood, Vale Road Dairy, Northfleet, were taken monthly by the Public Health Department, Northfleet Urban District Council, all proved satisfactory.

There are no dairies or bottling establishments situated in this district.

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

There are thirty-five establishments in the district, thirty-three are registered for retail only, two are registered to make Ice Cream, with prescribed cold mix. Two hundred and twelve samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, with the result 157 were grade I, 52 of grade II, 3 of grade III. No Pathogenic organisms were cultivated.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1938-1950.

Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Swanscombe Urban District during the year ended, 31st December, 1955.

Article.	No.
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine	1
Beef Sausages	1
Bronchial Tablets	1
Chocolate Laxative	1
Complete Cake Mix	1
Concentrated Lemonade	1
Flavoured Milk	1
Fruit Salad in Syrup	1
Ginger Marmalade	1
Ice Cream	2
Kilkof	1
Milk	14
Milk Coconut	1
Pork Pie	1
Pork Sausages	2
Soda Mint Tablets	1
Spirit of Sal Volatile	1
Whisky	2
Total	34

SUMMARY

Milks	...	14
Drugs	...	6
Spirits	...	2
Other Samples		12
		34

All the above samples were reported as genuine.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

126 lbs. of various fruits in tins.
31½ lbs. of various vegetables in tins.
175½ lbs. of various meats in tins.
14½ lbs. of fish.
10 lbs. Cereals.
½ lb. Cocoa.
31 pints of Evaporated Milk.
13 ozs. Butter.
½ lb. Biscuits.
10 lbs. 11 ozs. Cheese.
4½ lbs. Fat.
1 pint Cordial.
7 lbs. Beef.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

In accordance with the Ministry of Food Circular MF5/54, one licence only was issued for the licencing of a Slaughterhouse situated in the district. The Licence is dated 1st December, 1954, and expires on the 31st December, 1956.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	—	—	—	9	407
No. inspected ...	—	—	—	9	407
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcass condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1%
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	264
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	264
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1925 and 1932	118
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	118
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	56
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	126

2. Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or its Officers	98

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

(a)	Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	48
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	29
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	34
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By Owners	9
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	—
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made	—
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	—
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
	(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1955.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1955 of work carried out under the Public Health, Housing, Factories and Food and Drugs Acts, etc.

Investigation was carried out of all cases of infectious diseases, disinfection of beddings, clothing and premises, inspection under the Factory and Workshops Act, inspection of foods, sampling of milk and water, etc., investigation of complaints, interviewing builders and owners of property concerning sanitary work. Other duties are clerical work in connection with the above and administration and supervision of the Cleansing Department.

Number of complaints received during the year	125
Total number of visits made	2027
Preliminary Notices served	98
,, ,, complied with	98
Statutory Notices served	18
,, ,, complied with	15

Verbal notice only was given on 17 occasions.

Visits made by Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1955 :—

First visits. Public Health Act 1936 and Housing Act 1936	264
Re-visits, Public Health Act 1936	115
Infectious disease enquiries	314
Inspections of verminous premises	2
Visits in connection with verminous persons	—
Water supply and subsequent visits	12
Drainage inspections	120
Drains tested	96
Visits regarding cesspools	2
Housing Act visits and revisits	257
Moveable dwelling inspections	2
Rats and mice primary visits	176
Rats and mice subsequent visits	75
Factories visited	49
Bakehouse—basement	—
Bakehouses—ground level	6
Food premises	224
Dairies and milkshops	—
Milk sampling	66
Water sampling	12
Ice Cream sampling	212
Sewage sampling	11
Stables	—
Miscellaneous, accumulations animals	2
Swimming Pool (water samples)	10
	2027

INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

During the year 314 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, viz :—

Scarlet fever	24
Tuberculosis	7
Measles	271
Whooping Cough	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Poliomyelitis	1
Enteric or Typhoid ...	—
Dysentery	1
Meningococcal Infection	—
Acute Encephalitis	1
Total	314

Included in this was the supervision of the disinfection of same.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) The number of (a) Council Houses 1 ; (b) other houses 0 ; (i) found to be infested 1 ; (ii) disinfested 1.
(2) The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs is by fumigation, (Fumite), containing D.D.T. 60% in weight.
(3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin, routine inspection and disinfestation.
(4) The work of disinfestation : (a) Council Houses, Local Authority. (b) Private houses, Local Authority at owner's cost.

RODENT CONTROL.

Sewers.

A test was made of the Sewers and was again found at high levels to be infested. Post baiting proved to be reasaonably successful.

Surface Infestations.

Seven major and sixty-three minor infectations were successfully dealt with.

Agriculture.

A survey was made during threshing operations. At one farm ricks were heavily infested. Mesh wire barriers were erected, and many were destroyed. After which, treatment was carried out in the vicinity.

STREET CLEANSING, GULLEY AND CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

The major part of this work is in respect of paper factories which are situated below the level of the Sewer.

A Fordson (registered 1953) of 600 gallons capacity is used for this work, one driver and one man is employed part time.

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied during the year :—

Accumulations of offensive refuse removed	1
Animals in an unfit state	—
Ashbins provided	130
Ceilings repaired	1
Cesspools repaired or abolished	—
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	5
Chimney flues repaired	—
Doors repaired or renewed	3
Door frames repaired or renewed	1
Drainage Systems :—	
Drains repaired or reconstructed	10
Drains Cleansed	58
Gulley traps repaired or renewed	5
Gulley trap gratings provided	3
Soil and vent pipes provided	3
Inspection chambers repaired	4
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	14
Firegrates repaired or renewed	—
Fireplaces, brickwork and plasterwork repaired	—
Floors repaired or relaid	3
Floors, sub-floor ventilation provided	7
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	1
Roofs repaired	21
Sinks repaired or renewed	—
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	—
Staircase repaired	4
Stoves repaired or renewed	3
Rats, premises treated	75
Verminous rooms	2
Walls, brickwork repaired or repointed	16
Wall, damp proof course inserted	6
Walls, internal plasterwork repaired	22
Washing boilers, coppers repaired or renewed	—
Water closets :—	
External structure repaired	7
Internal structure repaired	3
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	1
Flush pipes repaired or renewed	—
Basins and traps renewed	1
Seats repaired or renewed	1
Water supply, supply pipes, etc., repaired	1
Windows, woodwork of frames, sashes or sills repaired or renewed	17
Yard Surfaces repaired or renewed	2
Miscellaneous	12
Approximate number of separate premises in the area	2582
Number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in district (approximate) :—	2582

W.C's into drainage system	2538	W.C's into cesspools	40
Earth closets or privy middens	1	Pail Closets	3

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspection made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical power	43	2	—
Factories without Mechanical power	29	—	—
Other premises under the Act	31	4	—
Totals	103	6	—

2. **DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	4	4	—	—
Totals	6	6	—	—

	No. in district	No. of visits in 1955	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	4	6	—	—
Dairies	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses—				
Registered	—	—	—	—
Licensed	1	45	1	1
Other food-preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	64	284	4	4
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	12	43	1	1
Workshops	17	29	—	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' homes)	19	31	6	6

Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(a)	(i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	—
	(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	—
	(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	—
(b)	(i)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	—
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	—
(d)	(i)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

(1) Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority:—

1919 Scheme	61
1923 ,,	27
1924 ,,	190
Non-subsidy	96
1936 Scheme	27
Prewar houses being sold under mortgage	59
Temporary	100
New Houses, Permanent Type	130
,, ,, ,, Prefabricated	62
Swanscombe Street Site conversions, Bungalows	38
Requisitioned Units	11
The Flats	116
Total	917

(2) Number of new houses built during 1955, —

(a) By Local Authority Permanent type	16
(b) By other bodies or persons	80
	96

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
L. E. CROUCHER,
Sanitary Inspector.

Reporter, Ltd.,
Gravesend.